

# 1 Kings 8:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

## Analysis

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**And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of dedication of the temple, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy. The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

## Historical Context

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First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of

peace and prosperity.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does the temple as God's dwelling place help us understand Christ's incarnation and the church as God's temple today?
2. What does Solomon's prayer and dedication teach about approaching God in worship and prayer?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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|                         |                 |             |                 |        |                                 |        |       |               |          |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|-------|---------------|----------|
| בְּכָל זֹת יְיָה יְהוָה | בְּכָל          | זֹת         | יְיָה           | יְהוָה | שָׁלֵם                          | ה      | אֵל   | לְהַתְפִּلָּל | אֵל      |
| H1961                   | had made an end |             |                 |        | And it was so that when Solomon |        |       | of praying    | H413     |
|                         | H3615           |             |                 |        | H8010                           |        |       | H6419         |          |
| וְהַתְחִזֵּה הַתְפִלָּה | וְהַתְחִזֵּה    | הַתְפִלָּה  | אֵל             | אֵת    | יְהוָה                          | בְּכָל | זֹת   | אֵת           | בְּכָל   |
| of the LORD             | H853            | H3605       | all this prayer |        | and supplication                | H8605  | H8467 | H2063         | he arose |
|                         | H3068           |             |                 |        |                                 |        |       |               | H6965    |
| מִלְפָגָה               | מִזְבֵּחַ       | יְהוָה      | מִקְרָר         | עַל    | בָּרָךְ                         | יְהוָה |       |               |          |
| from before             | the altar       | of the LORD | from kneeling   | H5921  | on his knees                    |        |       |               |          |
| H6440                   | H4196           | H3068       | H3766           |        | H1290                           |        |       |               |          |
| פִּרְשָׁה               | זֹת             | וְכַפֵּר    | בְּשָׁמִים      |        |                                 |        |       |               |          |
| with his hands          | spread up       |             | to heaven       |        |                                 |        |       |               |          |
| H3709                   | H6566           |             | H8064           |        |                                 |        |       |               |          |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 22:45** (Prayer): And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

**2 Chronicles 7:1** (Prayer): Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

**Psalms 95:6** (References Lord): O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.